

Quality Appraisal Inspection Report

Childminder Early Educator
Inspection report date
Previous inspection date

Zoe Johnson
1st August 2025
N/A

The quality and standards of the childminder's care and early education	This inspection	Outstanding
	Previous inspection	NA
Organisation, welfare and leadership		Outstanding
Teaching, learning and development		Outstanding
The promotion of children's well-being		Outstanding
Early Years Foundation Stage requirements including safeguarding and child protection.		Effective

What is it like to attend Zoe's early years setting?

This childminder early educator is Outstanding.

Zoe provides an exceptional level of care and education, creating a happy, nurturing environment where children feel safe, supported, and excited to learn. Her deep understanding of how young children grow and develop means each child gets the attention and encouragement they need to thrive.

The setting is thoughtfully arranged, with high-quality toys and resources that children can easily reach and explore. Whether they're digging in the beach-themed sand area, kicking a ball, or relaxing in a quiet corner, children are encouraged to follow their interests and build confidence through play.

Zoe is a natural teacher who makes every moment count. During a beach-themed rock painting activity, she helped children build vocabulary by using fun words like "squish" and "press", while also supporting their fine motor skills. Her teaching is playful but purposeful, always guided by what each child needs. She's also incredibly responsive. When a non-verbal child with autism took her hand to show he wanted to paint, Zoe gently supported him and talked through what he was doing, helping him feel heard and encouraging his language development. At the same time, children who are ready for more challenge are supported with fun and meaningful learning in areas like rhyming, counting, and exploring nature. Zoe plans activities based on what she sees each child enjoying and learning. Her observations are spot-on, and it's clear that children are making great progress in all areas.

Families are kept in the loop through daily Instagram stories and updates on EY Log, giving a lovely insight into each child's day. Parents regularly praise Zoe's warmth, dedication, and the strong relationships she builds with both children and families. Zoe's passion shines through. She's created a space where children truly thrive.

What does the early years setting do well?

- Zoe builds strong, trusting relationships with children, helping them feel safe, happy, and confident in her setting.
- She uses positive praise and encouragement consistently, supporting children's confidence and independence.
- Zoe provides imaginative and child-led experiences, allowing freedom to explore and follow their interests.
- She supports language development by modelling new words, asking thoughtful questions, and using a running commentary during activities.
- Zoe demonstrates strong knowledge of individual children's progress, identifying appropriate next steps across all areas of learning.
- She is particularly skilled at supporting children with additional needs, adapting her approach sensitively to meet sensory and emotional needs.

- Zoe promotes early literacy and fine motor development, with focused activities like painting, mark-making, and letter formation.
- Her teaching is child-centred and reflective, and she adapts her methods when needed to maintain engagement.
- She is proactive in her own development, keeping up with training and seeking ways to improve her provision.

To maintain outstanding, the educator should:

- Continue to develop children's opportunities to explore the local community.
- Continue to develop self-evaluations to continually raise standards of care and education.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Zoe demonstrates strong safeguarding knowledge. She confidently explains procedures around disclosures, injuries, the Prevent Duty, and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and ensures all policies are current and actively used.

Risk assessments are balanced and purposeful, enabling children to develop their own awareness of safety while building confidence in managing appropriate risks independently.

More information about this childminder early educator

Regulatory body	@Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA000017
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Childminder's unique reference number	CM00256
Inspection visit date	3 rd July 2025
Local Authority	Nottinghamshire
Age range of children	0 – 17

The educator was registered in 2024 and lives in Nottinghamshire. She works alongside a co-educator. The educator is open from 9.30am to 2.30pm, 3 days a week term time only. She provides funded early education for 2, 3 and 4-year-old children.

A non-inspection quality assurance visit took place within the past year, during which no formal judgement was made. However, the educator received both verbal and written feedback.

Information about this Quality Appraisal Inspection

The visiting inspector: **Kay-Louise Ley**

As part of the visit, the inspector completed a range of activities including:

- Observing the quality of teaching during activities and assessing the impact this has on children's learning. Including conducting a joint evaluation with the educator of a planned adult led activity.
- Discussing the educator's practice at appropriate times throughout the visit
- Reviewing the children's assessment records, observations and planning on the agency's EYFS learning journal software
- Viewing the areas of the house used for early education and reviewing a selection of policies
- Collecting the views of parents from surveys, the educator's own questionnaires and any spoken to on the day
- Discussing the educator's self-evaluation and plans for improvement

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage. If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can complain to Ofsted.

More Information about the Quality Appraisal Inspection visit

The Quality Appraisal Inspection visit was conducted by a Support, Advice and Mentor (SAM) from @Home Childcare Childminder Agency in line with A guide for Childminder Agencies⁽¹⁾. The visiting inspector reviewed all aspects of the childminder's setting to ensure they were meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework⁽²⁾. The quality of the childminder's practice was assessed using aspects of the agency's own evaluation schedule with reference to the Environment Rating Scales ⁽³⁾ and Ofsted's Inspection Evaluation Schedule. ⁽⁴⁾.

(1) *A guide for childminder agencies (October 2021) Department for Education*

(2) *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (January 2024) Department for Education*

(3) *Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (Harms, Cryer and Clifford); Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (Harms, Cryer and Clifford); ECERS –E (Curricular Extension) (Sylva, Siraj-Blatchford and Taggart); Assessing quality in early childhood education and care, Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being Scale (Siraj, Kingston and Melhuish)*

(4) *Early Years Inspection Handbook (May 2019) Ofsted* ⁽⁴⁾.